

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. Replacement drawings (1 sheet, Figs. 1-4) accompany this response. The replacement drawings show the arcuate ribs 18 and the section lines in Figs. 1 and 2 included in the original drawings.

The Office Action contains an objection to the drawings. The spline stops appear in Figs. 1, 2 and 4 as items 16. The spline stops 16 are beveled (outward-tapering) ends of splines 14, as can be seen most clearly in Fig. 1.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,425,551 to Puckett et al. Reconsideration of this rejection respectfully is requested.

Claim 1 recites a core with “a set of ribs projecting radially inward from the inner surface near the one end and extending between the axial splines.” Puckett et al. does not disclose such a set of ribs. The Office Action refers to a set of ribs near 36 in Figs. 1 and 2 of Puckett et al. Features 36 are notches. Nearby features include fork 34 and wedges 38. Puckett et al. does not teach “a set of ribs projecting radially inward from the inner surface near the one end and extending between the axial splines.”

Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8 are patentable over the cited prior art.

Application No.: 10/695,808

Docket No.: I7047.0000/P003

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments